



RHODE ISLAND GED FACT SHEET

Working together to bring all students to proficiency

The Rhode Island High School Equivalency Program is composed of the General Educational Development (GED) Tests, which are administered throughout the state by testing centers authorized by the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education. The Rhode Island High School Equivalency Diploma is issued to those eligible individuals who successfully complete the GED Tests.

The parent organization of the General Educational Development (GED) credential is the GED Testing Service (GEDTS), the American Council on Education (ACE). ACE has a 60-year history of hosting the GEDTS. In 2005, nationally, 443,607 adults were awarded a GED that enabled them to pursue work and postsecondary education and training as their goals directed.

The GED Tests provide adults the opportunity to certify their attainment of high school-level knowledge and skills. GED candidates' performance must meet or surpass the performance of 40 percent of traditional graduating high school seniors.

To earn a credential, a candidate must complete a battery of five tests covering mathematics, science, reading, writing, and social studies. The five tests, which last for 7 ½ hours, also measure skills in communication, information processing, problem solving, and critical thinking. The GED Tests reflect current high school curriculum standards while including content relevant to the workplace and community (*2005 Statistical Report, Who Passed the GED Tests?* GEDTS, ACE)

In Rhode Island, 2006:

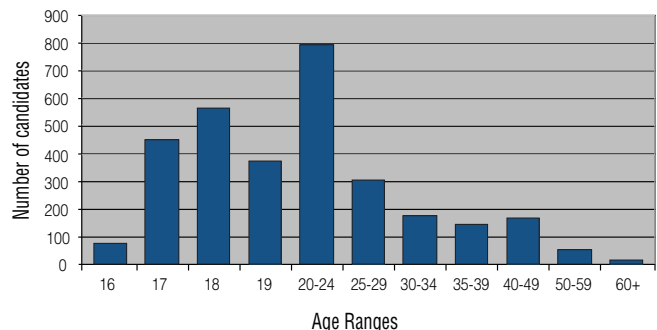
- 2,365 GED candidates took one or more of the GED Tests
- 1,909 GED candidates completed the GED Tests battery during the year*
- 1,589 GED candidates passed the GED Tests**
- 83% of GED candidates, who completed the GED Tests battery during the year, passed
- 26% of GED candidates fell within the 20 – 24 years age range***
- 143 Spanish Edition GED candidates took one or more of the GED Tests
- 53 candidates completed the Spanish Edition of the GED Tests battery for the first time
- 34 Spanish Edition GED candidates passed
- 64% of the Spanish Edition GED candidates, who completed the Tests battery for the first time, passed

* Took all five tests.

** Including the Spanish Edition of the GED Tests.

*** Spanish Edition GED test takers NOT included

Age of GED Candidates



Estimates by various agencies suggest that every year several thousand high school dropouts are added to the target population of the GED testing program.

In 2006, there were 10,090 traditional high school graduates in Rhode Island and 1,589 GED graduates. GED graduates accounted for 15% of all Rhode Island high school graduates.

Since 1971, Rhode Island has issued more than 82,462 GED credentials.

GEDs Issued in Rhode Island, 1971 – 2006

2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999	1998	1997	1996	1995	1994	1993	1992
1,589	1,617	1,550	1,390	922	2,912	2,058	2,232	2,284	2,592	2,626	2,507	1,827	2,702	2,473
1991	1990	1989	1988	1987	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980	1979	1978 – 1971	
2,651	2,595	1,844	1,808	1,840	2,185	2,215	2,259	3,402	3,139	3,351	3,345	3,028	17,519	

Employment and the GED:

“Wage rates reflect what employers are willing to pay an employee and, by implication, the value of the employee’s work. In simple comparisons, the average wage rates of male GED recipients were between 6 and 19 percent higher than of dropouts. For females they were between 2 and 13 percent higher, and for adults of both sexes in one study the rate was 14 percent higher.

In general, research shows that GED recipients earn more than comparable dropouts and indicates or strongly suggests that a major factor in the increased earnings is the additional education and training that the GED enables recipients to acquire.” (Labor Market Performance of GED recipients, *Educational and Labor Market Performance of GED Recipients* - February 1998)

Unemployment and earnings for full-time wage and salary workers age 25 and over, by educational attainment

Unemployment rate in 2005 (Percent)	Education attained	Median weekly earnings in 2005 (Dollars)
1.6	Doctoral degree	\$1,421
1.1	Professional degree	1,370
2.1	Master’s degree	1,129
2.6	Bachelor’s degree	937
3.3	Associate degree	699
4.2	Some college, no degree	653
4.7	High-school graduate or its equivalent (i.e., GED or EDP)	583
7.6	Some high-school, no diploma	409

Source: Unemployment rate: Bureau of Labor Statistics; earnings: Bureau of the Census.

Postsecondary Education:

The Office of Adult Education has forged a partnership with the Community College of Rhode Island (CCRI). With their consent, the GED recipients’ name and contact information are forwarded to CCRI’s admissions office. The office sends the prospective students information about enrolling and waives the application fee for those who express interest.

Did you know?



The following individuals are GED recipients:

- Bill Cosby, actor, comedian, and television personality
- Mary Lou Retton, Olympic medal winner in gymnastics
- Peter Jennings, ABC news anchor
- John Michael Montgomery, country western singer
- Richard Carmona, 17th Surgeon General of the United States

For More Information:

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<http://www.ridoe.net/adulteducation/>

Prepare for your GED online at:

<http://litlink.ket.org/>

Students may also watch *GED Connection* on PBS Channel 36 and register online to practice skills introduced in the broadcast. This can supplement the work of adult education programs and help those who flourish using independent- or self-study.